

Edwards: Lake Whitney to Receive \$19.3 Million in Stimulus Funding To Protect Public Safety, Improve Flood Control & Upgrade Parks

(WASHINGTON, DC) – United States Representative Chet Edwards announced today that Lake Whitney will receive \$19.3 million in funding from the Stimulus legislation signed into law by the President on February 17th. These funds will be distributed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Lake Whitney Powerhouse and Lake Aquilla.

“Ensuring the safety of our communities is one of my top priorities. These funds will help the Corps of Engineers to improve flood control, upgrade recreational facilities, and protect public safety at Lake Whitney,” said Edwards. “Creating local jobs by protecting area lakes and parks is a positive use of federal stimulus funds.”

The Lake Whitney powerhouse will receive \$18 million in stimulus funds to reinforce and repair damaged retainer gates and bridge structures at the dam, greatly improving structural integrity, and public safety. These funds will also be used to improve flood control at the site and improve safety to downstream areas.

Lake Whitney will also receive \$1 million in stimulus funds to re-establish and mark public land property lines to mitigate encroachment onto public natural resources. Lake Aquilla will receive \$320,000 to repair park roads and replace public restrooms.

“Lake Whitney parks are important to the quality of life of many Central Texas families, and improving recreational facilities while protecting natural resources must always be a top priority,” said Edwards.

In 2007, Edwards secured \$4.42 million for Lake Whitney Powerhouse that was signed into law to replace two turbines and upgrade generators that will result in a 12 megawatt increase in power capacity from 30 megawatts to 42 megawatts at the Lake Whitney Powerhouse.

“Demands for energy across the region are increasing and it is important that the power plant is modernized to keep up with the demand,” said Edwards, a senior member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. “By replacing turbines and upgrading hydropower capacity at the Lake Whitney Powerhouse, we will be able to provide electricity to more area families.” The Whitney Powerhouse was completed in 1949. It first went online and has been operating as a hydropower plant since 1953. The effects of age, increasing demand, and degraded capacity are resulting in a pattern of generator problems.